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¶ Memories. A Poem-Cycle. By the Countess Gabriella Fabbricotti.



I.

O PALE Spring night!
Murmurous with rain,
Send me a dream, for whose sweet sake
Mine untrue lover, Sleep, shall woo me once again.
Let it be rare as joy and real as pain,
Lingering as the twilight on a western lake;
And let me learn it is a dream before I wake.

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II.

S UMMER has died;—did you know it?
Toll for her with flower-bells.

Over her grave (so the sexton tells)
Withers a wreath;—did you throw it?
Who wove it of jassamine-stars and grass,
Weeping with last night's rain?
But it will not make her alive again,
For all your wreath and for all my pain.

Dear Love - - dear Love - - alas!

7

O H! dearest heart, have you forgot so soon—so soon? . . .

The day is yet at morning-tide, The year is yet at noon. What shall we do, when Autumn veils The rising of the moon?

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IV.

WILL you lead me to the wood?
Lead me and I come—I come—
Where the grey dove hides her brood
And the wild bird finds a home,
Where the silence is so deep
Even pain may fall asleep.

V.

YOU have forgotten now—'tis no surprise;
When Love and Time make war, the last must win.
They used to blame me for your hungry eyes
And for the start you gave when I came in.
Now I grow white if someone speaks your name,
But who shall dream of giving you the blame?



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VI.

W HY have you gone far and left me all alone Among the autumn flowers hanging their sweet heads,

Forlorn and pale, while the last birds moan
Among the saddened trees, when the winds wake? . . .
All in their humid, leafy beds
The violets blow wistfully—and I have not the heart
To pluck them in your name and wear them for your sake.

. . . But I, I cannot dream, alas! Because I know the dream lives but to pass, With the grey sand within the hour-glass.

> 222 633 VIII.

A SECOND time, beyond recall, art gone? How far?—God knows.—I am alone . . The night lies hushed, the dreams, wide-eyed, Keep vigil, quiv'ring by my side.

I hold them yet in leash, lest they should creep, Like subtle panthers, through the spell of sleep And silently, have stolen, ere I knew, The treasure of my waking thoughts of you.

IX.

WHERE are you, dearest heart, to-night?
Where do you sleep?
God send you some fair dream for sleep's delight,
To make you weep
That morning should so soon grow bright.
The stars gaze deep
Into the world asleep,
To find you for me and to say, "good night."

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X.

S UMMER is dying! . . . Pale as amethyst—And none to save!

September weeps with desperate desire;
October offers all his gold and fire.

Only November's ready with a wreath of mist,
To veil her grave.



O, LITTLE Love! with your sweet eyes and well remembered look,

Wherefore have you come back,

From the far land along the misty road,

Which all have told me, knows no homeward track?

Ah! Little Love! had I but known, had I but known!

I thought that you had gone

Beyond recall, beyond all hearing far;

And that is why

Sometimes I called upon you, in the night, stretched on my sleepless rack,

With desperate cry:

"O, Little Love! come back,—come back!". . Come back!"

XII.

I S it your fault, O Little Love,
That sleep has passed and forgot my door?
I knew the whisper of drowsy wings
And the scent of the fainting poppies he brings,
And the fancied murmur of unknown things.
But he passed outside on misty feet,
He passed outside and forgot my door—
Did he believe you were with me, sweet?
And will he return no more?



XIII.

And the blue-veined, hiding shadows, And the pushing, eager grasses
Bringing life into the meadows!
Aye! the life, the life! the living!
Glowing, reaching-out, expanding,
Breaking every chain of winter
And forgetting—and forgiving—
For the very joy of living!

OUT! out! out!
With the wind at early morning—
Race the sun and go and meet him,
On the flushed hill you should greet him,
With the dew upon your lashes
And among your wondrous hair—
In a thousand diamond flashes
Through the prisms of the air,
Decked, like every tingling flower
With the diadem of an hour.
Out! among the red-lipped clover,
With the young wind for a lover.

XV.

S HALL we roam and dream forever Down the moon-enamoured river, You and I?

While the tired birds are calling Through the mist around us falling,

As they fly?

All the dew is in my hair,

And my hands have met strange flowers-

There's a glamour in the air,

And the water and the hours

Hurry by.

One on each side of the river-

Will the dim, cold waters sever

Us for aye,

As we dream and wait forever

For a bridge, that cometh never,

You and I? . . .



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XVI.

THE time will come—aye, it will come, the misty hour,

When we shall stand together side by side For the last time—and oh! how pale the moon shall seem,

And how the world will have grown wide—so wide.

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XVII.

N O, I am not afraid, but the wan mist
Has closed around me and I cannot see.

Above my head strange clouds have met and kissed.

I hear the distant sorrow of the sea . . .

I need the strength of your familiar hand,
The comfort of your lips along the way—

For it is lonely in the shadowland,
Till we shall reach the gold-rimmed door of day.

